repatriated back of their original country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Upto 15th February, 1987, approximately 1,28, 569 refugees from Sri Lanka and 30 from Tibet entered India during the last three years.

Besides, nearly 49,000 tribal (Chakma) refugees also crossed over to India from Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh).

(b) Refugees from Sri Lanka, are not to be settled in India. However, all those refugees who have sought relief assistance are being given necessary relief in camps. Refugees from Tibet, who had entered India during the last three years, have all been settled.

(c) All the Sri Lanka refugees are expected to go back as soon as conditions of peace, normalcy and trenquility is created in that country for their safe return.

Chakmas from Bangladeish who have corossed over to India from Chittagong Hill Tracts are not to be settled in India but are to be sent back to Bangladesh. About 6967 Chakmas, who came from Chittagong Hill Tract (Bangladesh) to Mizoram have been sent back. The remaining number (nearly 42(000) who are in Tripura are expected to be sent back soon, as soon as atmosphere conducive to their return are created in Bangladesh.

Agencies exporting rice

735. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state·

(a) the names of the private agencies and their owners licensed to export Basmati and other varieties of rice to both rupee currency and non-rupee currency countries during the last two years (1985-86 and 1986-87) and the quantum of export made by each individual agency; and

(b) the quantum of rice exported by the Food Corporation of India during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Export of Basmati rice is allowed under Open General Licence. No export licence is required for the export of Basmati rice. Export of non-basmati rice is allowed within a limited ceiling on first-come-first served basis against letters of credit issued against confirmed contracts for export. There is no system of issuing general licences to any category of exporter for export of non-basmati rice either to rupee currency or to non-rupee currency countries. As per provisional data compiled, the quantum of export of rice during 1985-86 and April—December, 1986 was 2.35 lakh tonnes and 1.64 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) The Food Corporation of India has not exported any quantity of rice during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 so far.

Deployment of U.S. rapid deployment force on Pakistan territory

736. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any inquiry into the report in the Beirut weekly "Al Arabi" to the effect that U.S.A. and Pakistan have signed an agreement providing for deployment of U.S. Rapid Deployment Force on Pakistan territory and that it would be implemented as early as March, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof?

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Soviet Army publication "The Red Star" to the effect that Pakistan has consented to part with Gwadar for being turned into headquarters of one of the divisions of Rapid Deployment Force; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (d) Both USA and Pakistan have denied the existence of a secret agreement providing for the deployment of U.S. Rapid Deployment Force on Pakistani territory. However, Government continues to maintain a constant vigil on all such developments having a bearing on our Security.

Hotel accommodation for tourists

737. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total requirement of hotel room accommodation, keeping in view the present rate of tourists visiting India from abroad;

(b) what is the present availability of hotel room accommodation in the country for foreign tourists;

(c) what steps Government are taking to increase accommodation for foreign tourists; and

(d) whether any phased programme has been chalked out in this regard and if so, what are the details in this regard and the amount earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) The projected total requirement of hotel room accommodation by 1990 is 59,000 rooms to cate to the targetted 2.5 million foreign tourist arrivals expected by then.

(b) There are at present about 31,000 hotel rooms of the approved category.

(c) and (d) In order to encourage investment in the hotel industry, Government has extended several incentives/concessions to the hotel industry. These include exemption from the MRTP Act in the matter of both new projects and expansion of existing hotels; income tax holiday to new hotels; higher depreciation allowance; central subsidy for construction of new hotels in specified backward areas; interest subsidy on hotel loans advanced by IFCI, Foreign Exchange Incentive Quota for overseas advertising/publicity, promotional tours, import of provisions, equipment including vehicles (upto two in a year); concessional customs duty on a number of items imported by hotels for actual use; priority on the allotment of telephone/telex connections, etc. Besides, some of the State Governments have also accorded hotels/tourism the status of an industry, which entitles hotels to such concessions/incentive as are available to other industries in the respective States.

In the public sector, the India Tourism Development Corporation is setting up a 30-room hotel at Gulmarg besides expansion of 2 hotels and conversion of one Travellers" Lodge into a hotel. It is also constructing 6 hotels as joint venture projects with the State Governments.

The Department of Tourism is setting up Yatri Niwases and Forest Lodges, in collaboration with the State Governments, to provide accommodation for budget tourists. In the Seventh Five Year Plan of the Department of Tourism there is a provision of Rs. 5.00 crores and Rs. 2.00 crores for these projects respectively.

The Seventh Five Year Plan of the India Tourism Development Corporation does not include any provision for new hotel projects.